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SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1906.

A MEAT INSPECTION SUGGESTION.

Mr. Lindsay, of New York, in the House of Representatives, recently submitted a letter he had received from J. R. Caldwell, who resides in Gotham, suggesting an amendment to be incorporated in the meat-inspection law providing for the destruction of condemned carcasses by the injection of kerosene. Mr. Caldwell writes that this scheme was proposed some time ago by an inspector stationed at Chicago, who was instantly removed through efforts made by the packers.

The method suggested would undoubtedly prove effective, since the injection of oil would place the meat beyond the possibility of edible use, but there is something more in the letter than the suggestion concerning the proposed amendment. If the meat trust is able to secure the removal of an inspector simply because he suggests a plan by which condemnation of unfit meat may be made efficient, won't that power be used to bring about a practical evasion of the more stringent provisions of the proposed inspection act? The combine is wealthy and possesses all the political influence and power which goes with wealth. In the appointment and removal of inspectors great precautions should be taken to prevent the injection of prejudice and of undue influence on the part of those most vitally interested in lax enforcement of the rules and regulations to be outlined.

PRAISE FOR THE ELKINS LAW.

The Elkins anti-rebate law has been the subject of so much criticism and abuse, that it sounds rather strange to hear a high official of the government come out with unstinted praise of the measure. The West Virginia Senator has received from Attorney-General Moody a letter in which that official extends high praise for the law. The communication is as follows:

"My Dear Senator:—As you doubtless have seen, the Circuit Court yesterday decided the Cabot Brewing case in favor of the government. I inclose a clipping from the New York Tribune, which shows clearly the decision, which is put upon the broadest possible grounds and sustains my interpretation of the law, which differed from that given by the district attorney and special counsel in the case. If this interpretation of the law is sustained by the Supreme Court, it makes the Elkins law the most effective of instruments for destroying rebates and discriminations. I think this vindicates the Elkins law from the criticisms which have been made upon it.

Very truly yours,
"W. H. MOODY."

It is to be hoped that the optimistic views of the attorney-general will prove well-founded and that the law will be enforced in the future. Having paid such a high tribute to the efficiency of the bill, it will be a practical admission of inefficiency on the part of his department if there is failure to abolish the rebate evil.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN PRUSSIA.

The Baltimore Sun notes that "in Prussia municipal management of business enterprises is very common, but the law prescribes that commercial undertakings shall be administered upon the principle that the income derived from the undertak-

ings shall suffice at least to meet the whole of the expenditure arising from them. Interest and sinking fund included." This restriction does not offer to supply the public need, but if private enterprise is ready to take hold, the municipality must not compete except on a sound business basis. Waterworks, markets, and the like can be undertaken, but theaters, banking, mining, etc., cannot, unless they can be shown to be likely to meet expenses.

The only excuse for public ownership of competitive enterprises is found in the necessity for protecting the citizens from unjust exactions. Where private corporations furnish satisfactory service at reasonable rates, it is best for all concerned that the municipality should not burden itself with business not connected with the government of the community.

A Pekin dispatch says that "yellow snow" due to the dust in the atmosphere, has fallen for several days, causing much superstitious talk among the Chinese, says the Korean Daily News. They recall the ominous tradition that yellow rain fell at the time of the downfall of the Ming dynasty, and wild rumors are prevalent, one being that several assassins have recently found their way into the imperial palace. Our Korean contemporary seems to have made the most of an excellent opportunity to display "yellow journalism" enterprise.

After reading in the daily papers the troubles of the insurance men, the meat kings, the oil magnates, etc., one is constrained to believe that there is really something in the old adage that "Honesty is the best policy."—Brooklyn Times.

Of course, but it should be remembered that the man who is "square" simply because it is the best policy, lacks a good deal of being really an honest man.

When we consider how easily the smaller fry are finding the bottom we are forced to conclude that our proposed \$10,000,000 battleship should be kept in the middle of the ocean.—Florida Times-Union.

There are lots of places where the big vessel may safely cruise. If Uncle Sam will just put some one on board who is acquainted with the place where it is not safe for her to venture.

An Indiana lawyer says he has a list of the legislators of his State with the price of each marked opposite his name. It would be interesting to know how and why the gentleman in question collected the interesting information referred to. Is he not acquainted with the fact that the briber is just as guilty and is generally regarded as equally corrupt as the bribed?

Dr. Parkhurst declares that he would not accept the New York police commissionership if it were offered to him. He needn't worry, there is little danger that Mayor McClellan will follow the example of Former Mayor Moss, of this city, in appointing a sensational preacher to a place on the police board.

General Funston is unwilling to go to Kansas for fear he will have to make speeches. He might form a combine with some fluent professional speaker and do excellent team work—he doing the "looking grand" stunt and the other fellow doing the talking.

A baseball player fell dead while playing baseball last Sunday in Detroit. A preacher fell dead in the pulpit in the same city on the same day. Thus showing that death is no respecter of persons and, like the rain, falls upon the just and the unjust alike.

In his Memorial Day speech President Roosevelt declared that the first duty of a leader was to lead. Shouldn't he first find out just where he is going and the best path to take to get there?

The revelations of the grafting practices of the high officials of the Pennsylvania railroad make the Pullman porter look like a piker.

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IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

The Approach of the Black Rider Does Not Incite Fear.

As Sir Walter Scott lay dying he summoned his great friend to his side by a motion of his hand and whispered: "Lockhart, I may have but a minute to speak to you. My dear, be a good man. Be virtuous, be religious—be a good man. Nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to lie here."

Nelson in the midst of his gratefulness for having died victoriously for England thought for a flashing moment of his early record in its relation to the life after death. "Doctor," he said to the surgeon, "I have not been a great sinner."

On the other hand, there are innumerable instances in the records of biography pointing to the fact that men die without a thought of the world beyond. Charles II. died thinking of "Poor Nell." Sir Richard Grenville died with his mouth full of oaths, cursing the "traitors and dogs" who had surrendered his little Revenge to the Spaniards. History is full of such instances.

"Indeed, it is a memorable subject for consideration," says Stevenson, "with what unconcern and gayety mankind runs on along the valley of the shadow of death. The whole way is one wilderness of snares, and the end of it for those who fear the last pinch is irrevocable ruin. And yet we go spinning through it all, like a party for the Derby."

A doctor tells me that in a very long hospital experience he has never known of a sensational deathbed. The approach of death is, as a rule, doubted, and up to the last moment of consciousness the passing soul retains its conviction in the endurance of earthly things.

Soldiers tell the same story. To die jesting seems the last act of courage possible to a fighting man, and he makes the most of it. Endless are the stories of soldiers dying in action with a shout of humor on their lips.

Even more wonderful is the cold bloodedness of men going to the scaffold. To feel the edge of the ax was something of a jest in old days, and there is the story of the felon going to Tyburn who blew the froth from his last mug of beer because it always gave him indigestion!

And yet it is only in brief moments that the true horror of death sweeps over the soul. We do not think about it. We put it away from us. Humanity has made up its mind not to be frightened. Death indeed is even preferred before life. A hopeless infatuation for a painted doll will drive Fortunatus to suicide. Money troubles will fling a man under a passing express, and dyspepsia has loaded many a revolver. Life may be mendacious, but death is not to be feared. Into the unthinkable mysteries of the universe a soul casts itself in a petulance and the waters of death close over it without a sound.

What has become of that soul? Where is that consciousness gone—that personality, that individual force which differed the man from every other who ever lived?

But the mob who watch the poor drenched and bloated and horrible body wheeled away to the mortuary turn away without any realization of death. They go to their taverns and their merchandise, take up the old greasy and well worn threads of their existence, and getting of food monopolizes all their thoughts.

Fear death? They fear nothing in the world. They are not even afraid of themselves.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Unfortunate Inventors.

"Trevethick," said an inventor in a bitter tone, "invented the first steam locomotive. He exhibited it in London on a circular track. It ran fifteen miles an hour. Trevethick, though, made nothing out of his invention. People laughed at it. They'd have none of it. All Trevethick accomplished in his life was to pave the way for Stephenson's success. He died in poverty, poor fellow."

"Koenig invented the steam printing press. His partner, Bensley, cheated him. Koenig, to support life, had to sell his patents. He died a poor machine, working for about \$8 a week."

"Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, didn't make a cent out of his idea."

"Hove, the inventor of the sewing machine, sold his patent rights for a passage to England. He was a mill hand when his machine was putting millions in the pockets of other men."

"Jacquard, the inventor of the famous loom, might have become a billionaire. This unselfish Frenchman, though, gave his invention to the government, and all he got in return—all he asked in return—was a pension of \$1,000 a year."

Human Life the Music of the Gods.

Somewhere it is said that human life is the music of the gods—that its sob and laughter, its songs and shrieks and orisons, its outcries of delight and of despair, rise never to the hearing of the immortals but as a perfect harmony. Wherefore they could not desire to hush the tones of pain. It would spoil their music! The combination, without the agony tones, would prove a discord unendurable to ears divine. And in one way we are like unto the gods, since it is only the sum of the pains and the joys of past lives innumerable that makes for us, through memory organic, the ecstasy of music. All the gladness and the grief of dead generations come back to haunt us in countless forms of harmony and melody. Even so—a million years after we shall have ceased to view the sun—will the gladness and the grief of our own lives pass with richer music into other hearts, there to barter, for one mysterious moment, some deep and exquisite thrill of voluptuous pain.—Lafcadie Heppie.

JAPAN'S EASTER EGGS.

Triumphs of Art Are These Symbols of Spring.

In Japan, where the coming of spring and the bursting into bloom of the cherry trees are made the occasion for an annual festival, the eggs of the Australian ostrich are greatly in demand as an important feature in the joyous festival. It is a far cry indeed from our travesty of an Easter egg, whose pure, delicate surface is actually disfigured by cheap dyes and crude, raw designs, to the exquisite works of art that the Japanese artist puts upon the market to welcome the spring. The Japanese artist always works as if imbued with the thought that God is everywhere.

Nothing that the nimble brown fingers touch is ever slighted, and upon the oval surface of these large eggs the Japanese artists lavish a very wealth of artistic efforts. The natural tint of the egg, a grayish blue, is often retained, and fairy landscapes are traced upon this background, which blends exquisitely with the blue of the sky, distant mountains or tiny lakes and rivers. Again, the egg will be tinted all over by the artist, and the designs are then chosen with great care relative to the ground color. Some of the most expensive eggs decorated in Japan are those which simulate specimens of cloisonné ware.

Such an egg, gorgeous in gold leaf and rare pigments and inclosed in a wonderfully carved ivory box, was once designed by an obscure artist and sent to the mikado, long years ago, just as the cherry trees were bursting into bloom. The royal recipient sent an immense sum of money to the artist as a mark of his appreciation and ordered him to leave the little country village where he had toiled unknown and come to the imperial city, and honor and great renown became his through long years.

Many and various are the designs on the Japanese eggs—dancing geishas and grinning devils, wistaria covered tea houses, with a geisha smiling cor welcome from the tiny porch, and stately temples presided over by solemn, sad eyed Buddhas, flowery landscapes smiling under sunny skies and lofty mountain peaks wrapped in lowering clouds. All the varieties of Japanese landscape and all the vicissitudes of Japanese life are portrayed on these eggs of the artist in Japan.—New York Tribune.

THE PASCHAL KISS.

Russia's Characteristic Salutation on Easter Morning.

Easter salutations among the Russians are characteristic. The "Easter kiss" is one of the chief observances. On meeting friends, relatives or even mere acquaintances on Easter morning it is the custom to exchange the same greeting that passed between the priest and people on the "Great Sabbath" service. This is repeated three times in succession; the friends kiss each other and exchange red eggs, of which a pocketful are carried for this purpose.

Strictly religious people make it a rule to kiss the first person they meet on Easter morning outside their own doors, whether this be a stranger or a friend, of high rank or of low. The Emperor Nicholas I. observed this rule with such fidelity that he once so honored a common soldier, who, in addition to his humble station, had imbibed more vodka than was good for him. At another time this high honor of the touch of the lips of the great czar fell to the lot of a poor beggar woman, who was as much terrified by her good fortune as though it had been a sentence of death.—Atlanta Constitution.

Famous Carved Pulpits.

St. Gudule, the cathedral church of Brussels, has a carved pulpit, representing in carved wood the expulsion from paradise. Among the animals are the bear, the dog, cat, eagle, vulture, peacock, owl, dove, ape, etc. There is an equally fine one in Antwerp cathedral. The decoration is of a lavish and striking character, figures, birds and beasts being mixed in artistic profusion. The Church of St. Andrew at Antwerp contains a very elaborately carved wood pulpit, representing the calling of Peter and Andrew. The figures are of life size, standing in a boat. Beside them is a net with fishes. Wilton church, near Salisbury, possesses the finest pulpit in England. It is made of choice marble, beautifully carved. In Worcester cathedral is a pulpit of carved marble, the gift of the late Earl of Dudley. A pulpit which certainly ranks among the finest in the world is that possessed by the Church of St. Mary, Radcliffe, Bristol, England. In the Church of the Holy Name, Oxford street, Manchester, there is a marble pulpit with panels of beautiful mosaics. Each panel contains the portraits of saints worked in Venetian marble.

An Irish Compliment.

An Irish gentleman said to an English officer, "Do you know Mr. X. of —?" The officer disclaimed having that pleasure. "Ah, he is a very nice fellow and a good friend of mine. But he has been dead these six years. An' shure, you're very like him!" The officer said he had been compared to a good many things in the course of his lifetime, but never before to a six-year-old corpse.—London Spectator.

Latter Day Broomsticks.

"How often do your housemaids dust?"

"Do you mean how often do they fan the furniture?" asked slaugy Mrs. Nuwedd, "or how often do they skip out?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

If poverty is the mother of crimes want of sense is the father of them.—Bruyere.

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